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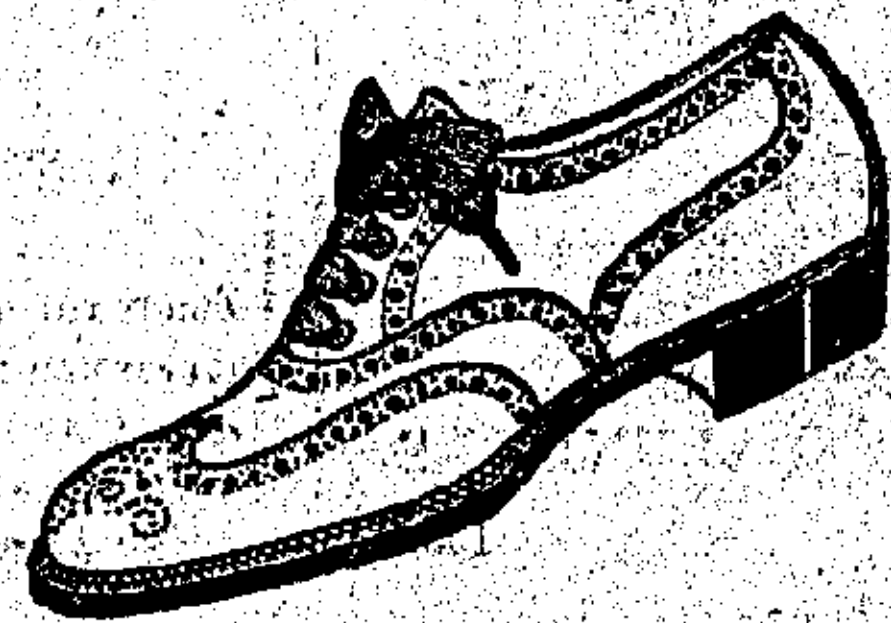
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THE RESIGNATION OF THE
CHINESE CABINET.
PRESIDENT AND PREMIER AT
VARIANCE

[FROM OUR PEKING CORRESPONDENT.]

PEKING, November 22nd.

Although it has been known that the President and the Premier have not been working in unison, the resignation of the Premier and the Cabinet came as a great surprise. That it should have been brought about by the intrigues of the President, who has been working secretly with the Southern leaders, was a great shock to many, for during the past month he has outwardly appeared to be supporting the Premier in his undertakings and policies. Apparently the Premier himself was taken completely by surprise, for, as soon as he learned what was happening, he handed in his resignation so suddenly that the President, in his turn, was taken by surprise. The latter imagined that, having put his schemes into running order, the usual negotiations and attempts to come to a compromise would be resorted to by the Premier and his followers, thus giving time to make arrangements for the President's supporters to take over the government. Some explanation of the events which led up to the resignation of the Cabinet is necessary for a complete understanding of how it was brought about.

Since he has occupied the Presidential chair, President Feng Kuo-chang has been following the same tactics as those which he adopted when in Nanjing, that is to say, he has been sitting on the fence. Every time a question of any importance has been put to him he has evaded giving a direct answer and has always taken advantage of the Cabinet being a "responsible one" to throw the final decision on its shoulders. With an eye to the next presidential election he has often allowed it to be understood that he was not in favour of this or that policy and only gave his consent because he was more or less forced to do so. From the very beginning he has endeavoured to make it clear to the Southern leaders that the action taken against them by the Government was contrary to his wishes and that he was really in sympathy with them.

The present crisis was brought about by his intrigues against the Government in its attempt to overcome the Hunan rebellion by military force. When the uprising first broke out in Hunan and the Yunnan troops in Szechuan went to settle the matter by means of a compromise, this was attempted, but the Government showed an inclination to meet the rebels half-way. It was stronger and more numerous became their demands. Luk Wing-ting, who held the key of the situation, continually changed his attitude, first promising to send his troops to the assistance of the Northerners and then refusing to do so unless he was granted certain conditions. The Government eventually became tired of this and dismissed him, and at the same time decided to bring the Hunanese to book by military means. The President held out against this for some time, but when he saw that the Premier would resign unless supported, he finally agreed to the proposed course—that is, outwardly, the Government immediately began dispatching troops to Hunan and to Szechuan. Its two best divisions—the 4th and 20th—were sent to the Kiangsi and Hunan troops from Kiangsi, Kiangsi and Hunan were ordered to advance on supporting reserves. They promised to carry out these instructions, but, nevertheless, in these troops from these provinces made a move. The Northern troops having been pushed forward into Hunan and on to the borders of Szechuan, the President arrived at the conclusion that then was the proper time to deal a decisive blow at the President of his balance, and he immediately Premier dismissed representatives to persuade Tuan had sent his troops to the aid of the Hunanese, and the Northern troops, who had made a considerable advance, found themselves faced with a very strong force and began clamouring for the reinforcement and began clamouring for the reinforcement and began clamouring for the reinforcement.

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rebels could advance and they would be able to say that, on account of being defeated, a peaceful solution was necessary. This they did and immediately sent the following telegram to the Government:—

"We have been afflicted and doomed by heaven, by a strife within our family. Politicians have made use of military men as their tools in their contentions for power and wealth. They hold opposite views, and have not the least scruple to compass their ends at the expense of the lives of the citizens. Under the pretence of the advancement of the interests of the people, they have fomented ill-feeling between the North and the South. In fact, the people will gain nothing by this quarrel for ascendancy. These politicians have given the people to understand that their actions have been actuated by the welfare of the nation, but, in point of fact, they have brought the country to the brink of ruin."

If these politicians are true patriots they would certainly be willing to sacrifice their policy. It is a Republican principle to comply with the popular desires of the people. We, Wu Ju-hsiang and others, being military men, are ignorant of politics, but our consciences have forbidden us to kill and murder one another by civil war. Since the outbreak at Linling we have all the while advocated a peaceful settlement. It has been declared by the leaders in Southern Hunan that the sole object of their independence is to maintain the Provisional Constitution of the nation, that they have refused to acknowledge the present Cabinet. We admit that the present Cabinet has not been organized in strict accordance with the Constitution; but it is only a provisional one to meet the requirements of the time. Granted that it is an illegal Cabinet, there is ample room for consultation. We have the confidence that the Southern leaders, who are avowed patriots, do not desire to take the initiative in civil strife and to inflict misery on the people of the country.

"We, the undersigned, hereby request that both sides suspend hostilities, pending a peaceful settlement. The President is requested to issue a Mandate, and collect the opinion of the provinces in the North and in the South, in order to consider the situation with an unbiased mind. It is imperative that a legislative organ be organized at once to fix the fundamental laws of the nation, thus avoiding endless quarrels. We believe that all of you are anxious for the salvation of the nation, and if you endorse the above views please express your opinion to the Central Government. You will not only save the people of Hunan from misery, but will render a great service to the whole nation. Being actuated by a warm patriotism for the nation, we have been obliged to express our opinion. We sincerely hope that we shall be favoured with your reply. (Signed) Wang Ju-hsiang (Commander-in-Chief), Fan Kuo-chang (Vice-Commander-in-Chief) of the Government troops in Southern Hunan."

This was the telegram which first made it clear to the Premier that a great conspiracy was being carried on against him. He had hardly finished perusing this telegram when he received a telegram from General Fu Liang-so that he had retired on Changsha. This meant that the whole of the Northern forces were either in retreat or had gone over to the enemy. The next day General Fu Liang-so deserted his command with the greater portion of his staff.

As soon as General Tuan Chi-jui realized what had happened he saw that it was useless for him to attempt to carry out the Government's policy of compelling the rebels to come to terms by military force, but when the three Yangtze Military Governors came out in the open and supported the Northern military commanders in their disloyalty he decided that was time for him to resign. He made his decision so rapidly that it threw the Premier at a loss. He immediately Premier dismissed representatives to persuade Tuan had sent his troops to the aid of the Hunanese, and the Northern troops, who had made a considerable advance, found themselves faced with a very strong force and began clamouring for the reinforcement and began clamouring for the reinforcement and began clamouring for the reinforcement.

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definite answer at the moment. Later in the morning the Premier arrived and very strongly reproached the President for acting as he had done. Hsu Shih-chang, who has acted as peace-maker on so many occasions, again came forward in that capacity, and urged the Premier to remain, pointing out that the country would be thrown into disorder if he left so suddenly. The Premier, after much persuasion, promised to stay for a few days until his successor had been appointed on the condition that the President would publicly announce that he supported his military policy against the Hunanese and would reprimand the disloyal officials. To the surprise of all, the President immediately turned against those who had been intriguing with him to bring about the crisis. He first delivered a long speech to the military officers, pointing out that it was absolutely necessary for the Government to pursue a strong military policy to suppress the Hunan rebellion, and urged them to carry it out with the greatest energy. He then issued a number of mandates punishing the Generals of the Government forces, but allowed them to retain their posts in order to afford them an opportunity to "redeem themselves." Governor Fu Liang-so he dismissed summarily, while the Military Governor of Hupeh was severely reprimanded, but given an opportunity to "redeem his merits" by leading the Northern troops against the rebels in the capacity of Commander-in-Chief. This General, next day, sent a most submissive letter to the President and Premier, acknowledging his "crimes" and giving assurances of his determination to fight for the Government, despite "fire and boiling water."

The President's surrender was complete, but the manner in which he abandoned those who had been working with him caused his supporters to become thoroughly disgusted with him, and he probably holds a weaker position today than at any time during his political career.

On the 23rd the Premier finally sent in his resignation and insisted on its acceptance. He had previously been relieved of the post of Minister of War. It was apparent to him that the intrigues which had been carried on for the past two months had completely disorganized the military forces of the Government, and for that reason he considered it impossible to attempt to hold things together. He insisted, however, before he left that the military operations against the Hunanese should be continued, and expressed his willingness to remain in the capital and give all the assistance he could. He even stated that he would be willing to lead the Northern forces himself, but the President did not wish him to leave Peking, fearing that his old supporters would rally around him and form a strong military party detrimental to his interests. Just previous to the final resignation of the Premier, Changsha had fallen into the hands of the rebels and five thousand Northern troops handed over their arms to them. This caused considerable alarm along the Yangtze, and the Yangtze Military Governors, who a few days previously had advocated a peaceful solution, now clamoured for a vigorous military campaign. Too late it was learned that Luk Wing-ting had sent strong reinforcements to the Hunanese, and that having captured Changsha, they intended to attack Yochow, a place to the north of Changsha, which, if it falls into their hands, will make it easy for them to march into Hupeh and menace Hankow and Wuchang. The Northern troops were absolutely caught unawares by the attack on Changsha, as they had been given to understand that fighting had been suspended, but the Hunanese, under the advice of Luk Wing-ting, decided to take advantage of the disloyalty of the Northern Commanders to consolidate their positions and to make such strategic advances as would put them in a commanding position should the Northerners determine to resume fighting.

This loss of Changsha has had a whole-some effect on the Peiyang military party, for it is now clear to them that, unless they get together quickly and oppose the advance of the Southerners, not only will the latter be in a position to make heavy demands as the price for burying the hatchet, but also to demand more that their fair share in the Government in Peking.

The President's position is a very difficult one at the present time, for the Military Governors he has relied for support, now look upon him with a very suspicious eye, while the remainder of the party, who have been supporting Tuan Chi-jui, are strongly opposed to him. Some of his own supporters have told me that it is impossible to rely on him in any way, and that the only reason they have supported him is because he has hitherto carried out the policy of those who worked with him.

Li Shun is the great man of the present situation. He is the man whom the President selected to fill his place in Nanjing when he came up to Peking to take the Presidency. He controls the other Yangtze generals and it was the military power which he wields that enabled him to take such a strong stand against Tuan Chi-jui and his Cabinet. It can be said now that the strength of the whole situation lies in the Yangtze, and that Peking is waiting to hear what the Yangtze people intend to do.

A DEAD TOWN.

SHELLING OF ARMENTIERES.

[FROM PHILIP GILES.]

The harvests of France and Flanders have been gathered in, and already the plough, driven by men too old to fight, or by boys too small and young, or by peasant women whose men are somewhere near St. Quentin or Verdun, is turning up the stubble in the fields and making a brown landscape where three weeks ago it was all gold and bronze. The trees are turning brown also, deepening to a reddish tint. It is the autumn touch of a war in which some of us have seen four harvests gathered into French barns and four winters come. It makes one feel a bit sad that thought. It puts an autumn touch for a second or two into the souls of men coming back from leave, as I came back with some of them two days ago. Back to the dark days and a Flemish winter, said one of them, as he stepped on to the quack, and he uttered a little bad word under his little black moustache. "Back to the mud," said a friend of his, and then, watching the crowd of brown Tommies and red-tailed Staff officers and V.A.D.'s and ambulance men—gave a queer laugh, and said: "Back to the same old show—and how do I get to Everdinghe?" To Everdinghe and Poperinghe and all sorts of places on the way to blast fields, where the only dwelling-places are concrete pill-boxes and holes in the ground. The men back from leave, back from Poperinghe and the Strand and little old houses in English villages a day's journey, but a world away. They go back to the same old show, and as they get close to it again see the same old fireworks in the sky as when they left for seven days' leave.

The drone of our aeroplanes and the reports of German anti-aircraft guns made the only noise in Armentieres, that and the sound of two men's footsteps as I and another walked through the streets of the town which is dead. It is a queer thing to walk through a big town out of which all life is gone, and queer to see especially in Armentieres, because I knew it not long ago when there were many women and girls about its streets, and when one could take one's choice of tea-shops, though only 1,800 yards away from the German line, and get an excellent little dinner in more than one restaurant. One could have one's hair cut, and a shampoo to the musical accompaniment of field batteries outside the town, and buy most of the things a man in the simple life of war, except peace, in shops and in the town, because they lived within 1,800 yards of the enemy's line as it was then, eighteen miles. For a long time during the war the town has been known to British soldiers who have passed it on their way to "Blue Street" as "Armentieres." They made friends with some of the girls in the tea-shops and said "Hallo, granny! Tray boy" to old ladies who sold them picture postcards. Now it is a town of tears to any people who once lived there. The tea-shops have been smashed to bits, and the women and the girls have gone, unless their bodies lie in the cellars beneath the ruins.

The bombardment began suddenly one night in June, and the old women and the girls and the children were in their beds. They rushed down into their cellars, not for the first time, because during nearly three years of war-stray shells had often come into the town, but never like this. These were not random shells scattered here and there, but a steady and frightful violence into every part of the town, sweeping down streets after street, blowing houses to dust, knocking the fronts off the shops, playing fantastic horrible tricks of choosing and leaving as shell-fire does in any town of this size. There were gas-shells among the high explosives, and their poison filtered down into the cellars and clung to women's hair.

It is easy to see what had happened during those days and nights of terror some weeks ago. I looked into the blown-out fronts of little shops and houses and saw how everything had been abandoned in that rush of women and children to the cellars. In spite of the wreckage of the upper stories and of the walls about them, some of the rooms were intact. Here were the remains of an eat-inn, with its cash-box on the bar counter, and games, such as soldiers' lotto, dominoes and darts and quito and bagatelle—set out as if for an evening's entertainment. But it was in the cellars that the pitiful drama had been—in those cellars down poor bodies lay there still. The shells had pierced down to the bones of the women hiding in them. Poison-gas came to choke some of them. Rescue parties of our I.A.M.C. went into Armentieres immediately to get the poor creatures away, and risked their lives a score of times on each journey they made.

The I.A.M.C. men, at most deadly risk of themselves, managed to clear most of the cellars, carrying out the people on stretchers and taking them away in ambulances to hospitals.—Daily Telegraph.

ORDEAL OF THE PARAPET.

A REFINEMENT OF AUSTRIAN CRUELTY.
According to an Italian semi-official communiqué, an Austrian prisoner of Roumanian nationality captured by the Italians says that on August 20th a Roumanian soldier was discovered attempting to escape. By order of the commander of the battalion he was obliged to stand on the parapet of the trench exposed to the fire of the Italians, while two Hungarian soldiers, with rifles pointed towards him stood behind. The victim was weeping bitterly and was convulsed. A few minutes afterwards a rifle shot killed him.
The prisoner added that on the Russian front, where desertions among the Slav soldiers are very frequent, this system is in current use, and that if, after two hours have elapsed, the victim is not hit by the enemy fire, he is pardoned. On the Eastern front, the Russians did not fire on the Austrians when they saw exposed to their fire on the trenches, because they were aware of this procedure.
This punishment of deserters has evoked keen indignation amongst the Roumanians.—Admiralty, per Wireless Press.

HONGKONG MAGISTRACY.
THEFT OF CROCKERY-WARE.

A Chinese pleaded guilty to stealing a basket of crockery-ware from First Street, and was sentenced to six weeks' hard labour and four hours' stocks.

THEFT OF A CAULDRON.

A Chinese pleaded guilty to stealing a cauldron from a house in which he had been formerly employed.

Defendant stated that he was hungry and wanted to get a few cents with which to buy food. What else could he do in the circumstances?

Mr. Dyer Ball sentenced defendant to six weeks' hard labour, remarking that for a man who had previous knowledge of the house and its surroundings it was the worst form of larceny to commit.

ALLEGED ASSAULT.

An elderly Chinese woman was charged with assaulting another woman at present in the Government Civil Hospital, on Tuesday night at Second Street.

Inspector Sullivan stated that there were no external injuries, and he was of the opinion that the complainant pretended to be worse than she really was. The Doctor at the Government Civil Hospital had reported that the complainant should remain in hospital for a day, in order to be examined.

Mr. Dyer Ball remanded the case till to-day, fixing bail at \$10.

UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF OPIUM.

A Chinese was charged with being in unlawful possession of twenty tins of prepared opium, valued at \$100.

Defendant stated that a friend gave the opium to him to be brought ashore.

A Revenue Officer said he noticed defendant leaving the wharf on Tuesday night, and, on searching him, found the opium concealed on his person. Defendant had stated to witness that the parcel was given to him by another man, whom he was unable to identify.

Mr. Dyer Ball fined defendant \$1,000, or, in default, three months' rigorous imprisonment.

Another Chinese, who was charged with being in unlawful possession of 14 tins of opium, was fined \$50, with the alternative of six weeks' hard labour.

ALLEGED ROBBERY WITH VIOLENCE.

Three Chinese were charged with (1) robbery with violence and (2) stealing jewellery and clothing to the total value of \$153.

Inspector Brown stated that the robbery took place on the 3rd inst. at 24, Upper Lascar Row. The master of the house, who is an accountant in a fruit-stall at the Central Market, had just left for his work, when the three defendants knocked at the door. The complainant's wife called out: "Who is there?" A man replied that he had some money to deliver and showed some silver through the spyhole of the door. No sooner was the door opened than defendants rushed into the house. They forced the woman into a cubicle, threatening to do her harm with the knives they carried, and threw a quantity of pepper into her eyes, thereby practically blinding her at the time. They next gagged her and covered her head with a cloth. One defendant stood guard over her while the other two seized the mother-in-law, bound her hands with some wire, gagged her, and threw her down violently on the floor. They next threatened the two children, who were crying out. A box, which contained money and jewellery, was prised open with the aid of a chopper taken from the kitchen, and five gold bangles and \$80 in money removed. Three rolls of five-dollar notes were found on the second defendant when arrested, and these were claimed by the master of the house. Witness, who was walking along the road at the time was hailed by an Indian sergeant, who said he thought a robbery was being committed at the house. Witness did not attach much importance to the story and told the Indian sergeant to go up and investigate. A few minutes later the blowing of a police whistle was heard and witness ran to the place, and managed to arrest two of the defendants as they were coming down the stairs. The third defendant was struggling somewhat violently with the Indian Sergeant, and they both came rolling down the stairs, where defendant was subsequently arrested. The other two defendants also showed fight and tried to escape. The bangles were found on one of the defendants and the money on another.

The complainant's wife went into the witness-box and gave a graphic description of what took place.

After the evidence of the mother-in-law, Mr. Dyer Ball remanded the case till to-day.

SPORT.
BILLIARDS.

SOLDIERS' CLUB TOURNAMENT.

On Tuesday night the Royal Engineers and the H.K.P.R. 5 and 6 Platoons, met in this competition. Some good billiards was seen, Q. M. S. Wilson, in particular, playing a nice game. As the result of the evening's play the R. E. lead by 95 points. Scores:—

Q. M. S. Reakes	250
Q. M. S. Wilson	250
H.K.P.R. 5 AND 6 P.	
Band Sgt. Osmond	211
Bandman C. J. Sequeira	221

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.

HONGKONG LEAGUE.

R.G.A. v. 26th MIDDLESEX REGT. O.

These teams met yesterday at the Happy Valley in the above league, this being their first encounter of the season. The Infantrymen received a thorough training, but they proved themselves splendid sportsmen by striving gamely to the end. There was not a single foul during the game, and no grumbling or unpleasantness, which reflects credit on both teams, especially the losing one. Play had only been in progress a few minutes before Talfourd came through from the half-back line and netted with a well placed shot. Green was responsible for the second with a beautiful "first-timer" into the corner of the goal. Walden got away but was stopped by Gretton, and the gunners coming back, Talfourd found himself in possession, well out. Obeying instructions from his Captain to "try one" he did so, and put in one of the best shots of the match. The fourth goal came from a centre from Youngman, Edgeler being well up and rushing the ball through, and shortly afterwards, Youngman had very hard lines with a low ground shot. Walden again got away for the Middlesex and the ball was passed to the right wing, from where an excellent shot was put into the R. A. goalmouth. Devine was safe, however, and cleared in good style. At the interval the Artillerymen were leading by four goals to love.

Almost immediately on resuming, Youngman got away and put in a beauty from somewhere in the region of the corner flag, which beat the goalkeeper all the way. The combination of the gunners up to this stage had been excellent, but presumably, thinking they were safe, they altered their tactics and nearly all tried to score, with the consequence that the game became scrappy. The Artillery still maintained the upper hand, however, and after a while Watson added the sixth with a really good shot. The last goal was also mainly due to Watson, who took the ball nearly into goal, where it was stopped by the goalkeeper, and Green came up and scored on the rebound. The Middlesex paid several fleeting visits into their opponents' territory in this half, but the R.G.A., by bustling tactics, kept their goal intact. The complete absence of any suggestion of foul play made the game an enjoyable one to watch even though it was so uneven.

Referee—Mr. Wright.

DIVISION II.

R.E. RES. 4, v. 87th CO. R.G.A. 2.

This game was played on the Navy Ground. The first half was evenly contested, the score being 2-1 at half time in favour of the sappers. In the second half the Engineers added two more and the R.G.A. replied with one, one of the Engineer goals being scored off an opposing defender. Baker was responsible for one of the R. E. goals and Todd for the remaining three, while Small and Saunders netted for the 87th Company.

Referee—Mr. Black.

ENGLISH AS SHE IS SPOKEN.

The desire to handle English gold spurs the Dago to marvellous flights where our fighting men are to be caught. An example is afforded by the following "Highly Important Notice" which the Chief Steward says is to be seen in Cairo:— "Mohammed Bin Ali Yusuf begs announce to Nobility and Cairo Smart Set that he opened a high class restaurant shop at No. 17, Sharia Manakhi, Mark. Everything At and diam cheap. Prices quite wonderful and as follows:—Bouff 6 piastres, Bouff (extra good) 8 piastres, Chop and Smashed steak 7 piastres, Rolly polly pudding 8 piastres, Bubbles quick 5 piastres, Englebertek 10 piastres. N.B.—Delectable music and dancing ladies every evening.

THE TIENSHIN FLOODS.
ASSISTANCE FROM HONGKONG.

We are asked by the Hongkong University Union to remind the public of the opportunity offered to them this afternoon and on Friday to give practical expression to their sympathy with the sufferers in the province of Chihli. A visit to the University will give enjoyment to the visitor and provide help to the sufferers in North China.

An attractive souvenir programme has been prepared containing pages of useful information about the bazaar, side-shows, concerts and amateur theatricals. These will be sold for 30 cents and will give admission in the afternoon.

H.E. the Officer Administering the Government will formally declare the bazaar open today at 2 p.m. For the next three hours it will be possible to purchase all sorts of articles, from fancy work to tobacco, and a number of ladies will explain the advantages of purchasing in a cheap market. For those who wish to have plenty of fun for a few cents the attractions of the bazaar will be secondary to the side-shows of which there is a good variety. The lecture rooms have been suddenly adapted for such frivolous proceedings as a cinema show, dancing, etc. For the modest sum of thirty cents it will be possible to obtain tea either on the roof garden or in one of the decorated drawing-rooms.

In the evening the Engineering students will explain all the various machines to the curious, and they will demonstrate with experiments. The ladies of the bazaar will compete with them in offering attractions to the visitors.

At 8 o'clock the grand concert in the Great Hall of the University will commence, and the popular local artists may expect a crowded audience, for all the five-dollar tickets for this great attraction have been sold. But the entrance tickets (\$1) to the University, which must be presented at the gates in the evening, will admit to the Concert to the utmost capacity of the Hall.

The University will be illuminated and decorated for these festivities.

On Friday the bazaar will be continued from 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. and from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. In the evening the great attraction will be the Cantonese version of "The Merchant of Venice."

Donations in cash have been received by the Hon. Treasurer, The University Union, from St. Stephen's Girls' School (where \$308 was obtained by collection), from Mrs. Stabb, Mr. and Mrs. Ho Fook, Mr. and Mrs. Ho Kwong, and Mrs. Lo Cheung Shiu.

UNION CHURCH WORKING PARTY.

The Ladies' Working Party of Union Church sent last month two cases to the men of the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders containing:—144 shirts, 270 handkerchiefs, 56 helmets, 30 caps, 59 mufflers, 48 pairs of knee caps, 56 pairs of mittens, 276 pairs of socks, 24 vests, 2 trench sweaters, 48 towels, several razors and combination knives and forks. They also presented to local troops 99 pairs of socks and 30 shirts.

The following are translations of letters received:—

Croix Rouge Francaise, Comite Subdivisionnaire de Marseille, 14th September, 1917.

MADAME.—We have the honour to tell you that we have received, through Messrs. Thos. Cook & Son of our town, the box of clothing which you wish to offer us for our dear sick and wounded soldiers undergoing treatment in our hospitals. We are very grateful; in their name and in the name of our work we beg you to accept with our thanks our respectful homage. The President.

Surgical Branch of Queen Mary's Needlework Guild, 2, Cavendish Square, W. 1, October 8th, 1917.

DEAR MADAME.—Will you please accept our most grateful thanks for your beautiful gift, which was unpacked on October 4th! Your gifts are so regular and contain so many useful articles that we are beginning to rely upon them, which, perhaps, is the best way of expressing our gratitude.

It is difficult by letter to express one's feelings, but I only wish your workers and the many kind friends who are assisting your Society could have seen the satisfaction in which your gift was unpacked and taken to our stock room.

Again thanking you—Yours faithfully (Signed) Mrs. M. Gansley (General Manager for England, President and Head of Depot)

ITALIAN CONVENT BAZAAR.

The Mother Superior of the Italian Convent desires to thank Mrs. A. Galluzzi, mother of the Italian Consul, for declaring the Bazaar opened and for her patronage; also the numerous patrons who helped so materially towards its success—Italian, English, Portuguese, Chinese, Japanese and Parsee. In particular would she like to mention the Editors of the English and Chinese dailies, Mons. D. Pozzoni, Vicar Apostolic of Hongkong, Lady Chater, Mr. M. J. D. Stephens, Mr. E. V. M. R. de Souza, Consul for Portugal; Messrs. Sincere & Co. for generous donations, Miss Y. Razovet for the gift of a splendid doll, and Mr. P. K. Kwok for the active work he did to make the Bazaar a success. The Superiors is thankful also to the Naval authorities for loan of flags and bunting and the President of St. Joseph's Congregation and Professor Vassallo for their excellent band.

THE WAR EFFORT OF LONDON.

MR. CHURCHILL'S TRIBUTE.

Mr. Churchill, Minister of Munitions, addressed an enthusiastic gathering of over 4,000 munition workers of both sexes in the metropolitan area recently.

Mr. Churchill, who was warmly received, devoted his opening remarks to the part that is being played by our allies. We had, he said, responsibilities to all our allies, and Britain would discharge with absolute fidelity our obligations and responsibilities to all our allies. Now there had come from across the ocean last of all the great Allies, perhaps the most powerful of all, certainly the most welcome to us here, our cousins, our brothers, the great Republic of the United States. (Cheers.) We, in such company, may advance assured that the purposes which we serve will not be frustrated and hopeful that the conflict will not be prolonged.

Directing attention to what the people of the British Isles have done, Mr. Churchill said he, as they knew, had the honour to represent a famous Scottish constituency, and he had had an opportunity of seeing the character of the fine troops which Scotland had contributed in this war. But he was quite sure those gallant men in the Scottish divisions would be the first to pay their tribute of regard and of respect to their English comrades, who had fought so bravely by their side. England, as it was right and necessary to state, was contributing three-quarters of the whole military effort in man-power and paying three-quarters of the toll of life and limb. And of all parts of England none had played a more worthy part than the great capital city in whose outskirts they were gathered together. It was no exaggeration of language, but the sober fact, to state that what was called the Metropolitan Police Area had brought a greater weight of power to bear upon the war than any other portion of the globe. No country, no matter on which side of the conflict they might be arrayed, had done so much.

It was not a war only of armies, or even, he had almost said, mainly of armies. It was a war of whole nations. Every quality in a race, every institution in a State was being tested by it, and being tested by it to an extreme point. It was also a supreme conflict of moral and political ideals. The German War Lords said that their system of militarism and Caesarism had enabled them for more than three years to make head against almost the whole world. But was it not also true to say that this same system, and the policy which emerged from it, had brought the whole world against them? And would it not also be proved true that the weight of the whole world would overwhelm them, and the condemnation of the whole world would wither them and their system, and all that it stands for, and all that stands for it?

HONGKONG POLICE RESERVE.

BAND.

The Band will attend at the Theatre Royal at 8.45 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 10, in connection with the Police Reserve Boxing Tournament.

MUSKETRY COURSE, 1917-18.

The Undermentioned Sections, warned to fire Part 1 on Sunday next, Dec. 9th, will attend at Headquarters Club at 5.30 p.m. for general instruction as follows:—

No. 1 and 3 Section (No. 1 Platoon)—Thursday, December 8th.
No. 2 Section (No. 2 Platoon)—Friday, December 7th.

Uniform optional. Musketry Handbooks must be brought. The results of shooting by the Staff, Mounted Police, and Maxim Gunners on 2nd instant are posted at Headquarters Club.

NO. 3 COMPANY, WINTER UNIFORM.

Members of No. 3 Company, Ambulance and Buglers and Drummers requiring alteration or fresh issue of Winter Uniform are ordered to parade at Headquarters Club at 5.30 p.m. on Thursday, December 8th. A note will be set aside for changing purposes.

F. C. Jenkins, D.S.P. (R.).

Hongkong, December 5th, 1917.

One of a number of munition workers summoned at Dartford for failing to pay income-tax—S. G. Richard, aged 30—was committed to prison for 28 days for the non-payment of £2 12s 6d. It was stated that for the last four weeks he had earned £2 12s 6d, and for the last two weeks he had earned on an average £12 a week. One week he earned £12.

INTIMATIONS.

LANE, CRAWFORD

& COMPANY.

LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

ROBES OF THE MOMENT
IN NEWEST FABRICS.BLOUSES OF TASTE
IN ARIOUS MATERIALSGOLFERS IN EXCLUSIVE DESIGNS
IN SILK AND WOOL.HATS FOR ALL OCCASIONS
AT MODERATE PRICES.SHOES FOR DAY AND EVENING WEAR
in "Lotus" and "Walkover" Brands.

MOTOR COATS.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

K & E

Stand for

ABSOLUTE RELIABILITY

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ENGINEERING INSTRUMENTS
AND MATERIALS.

Blue Print Paper,
Drawing Paper,
Profile Paper and Cloth,
Drawing Instruments,
Drawing Inks,
Drawing Tables,
Water Colours,
etc.

Engineers' and Architects' Levels,
Railroad and Mining Transits,
Range Finders,
Angle Mirrors,
Ranging Poles,
Leveling Rods,
Measuring Tapes and Chains,
etc.

Sole Agents:

Anderson, Meyer & Co., Ltd.,

Hotel Mansions.

Telephone 1990.

[198]

Wm. Powell Ltd.
TELEPHONE 346

NEW

Witcher
SHOE

FOOTWEAR.

[199]

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY.
(British Section).

IT IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that NO TICKETS will be served on the 12th P.M. Train from Kowloon on SATURDAYS, the 8th and 15th December.

By Order,
H. P. WINSLOW,
Manager.
Kowloon, 5th December, 1917. [1357]

G. R.

GOVERNMENT BILLS, ETC.

TENDERS for SPECIE current in SHANGHAI, up to and for the sum of \$400,000—current in Shanghai, will be received by the TREASURY CHEST OFFICER, ARMY PAY DEPARTMENT, until 11.30 a.m. on the 7th December, 1917.

The amount accepted is to be placed by the tenderer to the credit of an account with the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION, Shanghai, so as to be available on the 8th December, 1917.

Persons tendering to state alternatively (a) The amount of Hongkong currency payable in Hongkong on 8th December, 1917, required for each \$1,000—Shanghai currency and/or (b) The amount of Dollars current in Shanghai per \$100 for Telegraphic transfer on the 8th December, 1917, to the Treasury, London, and in sealed covers, addressed to the TREASURY CHEST OFFICER, ARMY PAY DEPARTMENT, and enclosing "TENDERS FOR GOVERNMENT BILLS, ETC."

The right to accept or reject any or all of the tenders is reserved.
Copies of Forms of Tender can be had on application.
Persons tendering for (Bills) are hereby notified that, having regard to the provisions of the Acts 22 George III., Cap. 43 and 41, George III., Cap. 62, the acceptance of any such tender is subject to the express condition that no Member of the British House of Commons shall be admitted to any share or part in or to any benefit to arise from the Contract thereby made for the allotment of such (Bills).

"The provisions in question do not apply to Contracts entered into by any incorporated Company in its corporate capacity and made for the general benefit of the Company."

Any further information can be obtained by personal application to the TREASURY CHEST OFFICER, A.P.D., F. J. TUBBURY-PELHAM, Lt.-Colonel, Treasury Chest Office, A.P.D., His Majesty's Treasury Office, Hongkong, 6th December, 1917. [1358]

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

FROM JAPAN.

THE Steamship

"TJILIWONG" having arrived, Consignees of Cargo by her are notified that all goods are being landed at their risk into the hazardous and/or extra-hazardous Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd., whence and/or from the wharves delivery may be obtained.

Goods not cleared by the 12th December, 1917, will be subject to rent.

All broken, chafed and damaged packages are to be left in the Godown, where they will be examined on the 11th December, 1917, at 10 a.m.

Claims against the steamer must be presented in writing with ten days after arrival of steamer, otherwise they will not be recognized.

No Fire Insurance will be effected by the Underwriters in any case whatever.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by JAYA CHINA-JAPAN L.N. Agents.

Hongkong, 5th December, 1917. [1359]

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

IT IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that we have this day REMOVED our Office to the Second Floor of No. 7, QUEEN'S ROAD, CENTRAL.
BRUNNER, MOND & Co., Ltd.
[1345]

NOTICE

WE HAVE this day appointed Mr. HENRY ARMAND HENRIKSSON, ASTRO Manager of our Business at Hongkong and have authorized him to Sign our Firm Name per Procuration.
Dated this 1st day of December, 1917.
CARVALHO & COMPANY. [1345]

NOTICE

THE MOTOR UNION INSURANCE CO., LTD.
(FIRE AND MARINE).

HAVING been Appointed AGENTS to the above Company, we are prepared to ACCEPT RISKS and issue Policies at Current Rates.

UNION TRADING Co., Agents.
Queen's Buildings, Hongkong, 12th November, 1917. [1371]

HONGKONG HOTEL.

THE MANAGEMENT beg to announce that as from 1st December, 1917, the "HONGKONG HOTEL ORCHESTRA" will play daily (Sundays excepted) as follows:—

IN THE MAIN LOUNGE.

From 11.30 A.M. to 1 P.M.

From 5 P.M. to 7 P.M.

IN THE GRILL ROOM.

From 8 P.M. to 10 P.M.

A series of TEA DANCES will be held during the Winter Months each TUESDAY and FRIDAY, commencing on 11th December, 1917. Dancing 5 P.M. to 7 P.M.

Special DINNER DANCES will be held on CHRISTMAS NIGHT, BOXING NIGHT and NEW YEAR'S EVE.

J. H. TAGGART,
Manager.

Hongkong, 1st December, 1917. [1348]

INTIMATIONS

BANK HOLIDAY.

IN accordance with Ordinance No. 5 of 1912, the EXCHANGE BANKS will be CLOSED for the transaction of PUBLIC BUSINESS on SATURDAY, the 8th instant (Hongkong, 4th December, 1917). [1356]

TIENTSIN FLOODS.

THE Students of the University invite you to their BAZAAR and ENTERTAINMENTS next THURSDAY and FRIDAY, Dec. 6th and 7th, at the University.

The Proceeds will be for THE METROPOLITAN FLOOD RELIEF FUND.

BAZAAR 2.30 P.M. to 5.30 P.M.
and 7 P.M. to 8 P.M.
on each day.

EXHIBITION OF LABORATORIES
7 P.M. to 8 P.M.

CONCERT AND PLAY (in English)

THURSDAY, Dec. 6th, 8 P.M. to 11 P.M.

"THE MERCHANT OF VENICE" (in Cantonese) on FRIDAY, Dec. 7th, at 8 P.M. to 11 P.M., in the Great Hall of the University.

Tickets of Admission to the University in the Evening, 2s each.

Millions of Chinese Families will starve this winter unless help is provided. The students of the University invite you to assist them to raise funds for the victims of the Tientsin Floods by coming to the Bazaar and entertainments at the University on Thursday and Friday, December 6th and 7th. [1353]

4% FRENCH LOAN.

(RENTS PERPETUELLES 4%)

THE BANQUE INDUSTRIELLE DE CHINE beg to announce that they are prepared to receive and forward to Paris, free of commission and telegram charges, at the selling rate of T. T. on Paris, applications for the above Loan, which will shortly be open to public subscription.
The list of applications will be CLOSED IN PARIS ON DECEMBER 16th, 1917, and those intending to subscribe are invited to apply without delay.

Issue Price: 88.60
Full particulars will be supplied on application to the—
BANQUE INDUSTRIELLE DE CHINE,
8, Chester Road. [1350]

4% FRENCH GOVERNMENT LOAN 1917.

Price of Issue Frs. 68.60
Bearing interest from the 16th Dec., 1917, payable quarterly.

Free of Taxes.

Not to be redeemed for 25 years.

Subscription List will be closed on the 12th December, 1917.

Bills and Bonds of the "National Defence" bought before the 1st November, 1917, are accepted in payment.

Applications will be received by:

THE BANQUE DE L'INDO-CHINE,

where full particulars may be obtained.

L. BERINDOAGUE,
Manager.

Hongkong, 8th November, 1917. [1355]

CENTRAL BUREAU OF LIQUIDATION

OF THE

DEUTSCH-ASIATISCHE BANK IN CHINA.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that under instructions from the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of China, the business in China of the DEUTSCH-ASIATISCHE BANK has been placed in Liquidation.

All Parties of Chinese, Allied and Neutral nationalities having Claims against the said Bank in Canton are hereby required to notify the Canton Bureau of Liquidation of their Claims, within one month from this date.

AND NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN, that all Parties indebted to the said Bank must discharge their liabilities within one month from this date, after which period the Central Bureau of Liquidation will take such action as may be necessary.

LOCAL BUREAU OF LIQUIDATION OF THE DEUTSCH-ASIATISCHE BANK, CANTON.

Canton, 1st December, 1917. [1338]

WANTED.

LADY ASSISTANT required for Merchants' Office. Some knowledge of Bookkeeping necessary.

Apply—Care of "Daily Press" Office. [1351]

G. R.

NOTICE

ANY EUROPEAN, Non-Asiatic or Indian desiring to leave the Colony should apply in person at the CENTRAL POLICE STATION between the hours of 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. and 3 P.M. to 4 P.M. daily.

Applicants will be required to produce passport or identification papers.

All persons with certain exceptions who remain in the Colony for more than 7 days are required to Register themselves under the REGISTRATION or PERSONS ORDINANCE 1915.

Forms of Registration giving the particulars required may be obtained at the G.P.O. and at all Police Stations.

The Penalty for non-compliance is a fine not exceeding \$50.

[1352]

INTIMATION

WATSON'S OLD BROWN BRANDY

E QUALITY.



25 YEARS IN WOOD.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.,
WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS.

TELEPHONE 618.

BIRTH.

HANCE.—On 30th November, at "Claymore House," Swatow, to Mr. and Mrs. JULIAN H. HANCE, a daughter. [1354]

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VIGES ROAD, O LONDON OFFICE: 121, FLEET STREET, E.C.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, 6th DECEMBER, 1917.

THE BATTLE AROUND CAMBRAI.

THE great importance which the Germans attach to the breach which our troops made in the famous "Hindenburg Line" between Cambrai and St. Quentin on November 20th is shown by the prodigious efforts which they have made during the past three or four days to repair that breach. They assembled a vastly superior force, numerically, to that opposed to them, and have squandered life with appalling prodigality in a vain attempt to recover their lost positions.

This attack is described, indeed, as one of the greatest, if not the greatest, ever launched by the Germans on the Western Front, the only possible claimant to equal magnitude being the second Battle of Ypres. They advanced in dense masses on November 30th with the intention of delivering a simultaneous encircling attack upon our new salient, the operations extending from Bourlon and Moeuvres, due west of Cambrai, and from Crevecoeur to Vendhuile, south of Cambrai. After many hours' fierce fighting, in which the enemy suffered severe losses, they were repulsed from Moeuvres to Marnières.

Further south they penetrated our new positions by sheer weight of numbers at various points as far as La Vacquerie and Gonnelleux and Gonzeval court. For this success, however, they paid very heavily, being caught by point-blank fire from our field artillery, and driven back before they established themselves. They claim to have taken on that occasion four thousand prisoners and several batteries. The intensity of the fighting is illustrated by the fact that ten hostile attacks were repulsed in the neighbourhood of Marnières in twenty-four hours, and that on December 1st no

fewer than fifteen assaults, were delivered against our La Vacquerie positions. In both cases a terrible toll was taken of the enemy. We are told that when the oncoming troops moved across the open in closely massed waves, without even a smoke screen, between Moeuvres and Bourlon, "our gunners never had such an expanse of human targets, and the ground is strewn over a very wide area with grey corpses," while opposite to La Vacquerie "we killed more Germans within twelve hours than at any other spot in the same time since the war began." By means of counter-attacks the Germans have been ejected from most of the positions which they temporarily regained, and the majority of the guns which they captured have been recovered. The remainder are understood to have been rendered useless before they were abandoned under the pressure of the first onrush. Our troops have withdrawn unmolested from the sharp salient formed by Marnières to a better defensive position, and, apparently, our line has slightly bent back at La Vacquerie, which is situated at the junction of the roads running from Cambrai to Peronne and St. Quentin. The net result, therefore, of four or five days' furious fighting is that the Germans are, with few and unimportant exceptions, back at the points from which they started with nothing to show at all commensurate with the enormous sacrifices they have made. Indeed, Reuters' Correspondent says that "if the sum total of Germany's losses in the field will win the war for us, then we have taken a substantial step in this direction during the past few days." Nevertheless, it looked at one time as if we were destined to suffer a serious reverse, and it was solely due to the extraordinary gallantry of our troops and the dogged tenacity with which they opposed great odds "that the enemy's intentions have been frustrated." The struggle is not yet over, but our men, who are "fighting like tigers," are reported to be confident of their ability to sustain it successfully. Meanwhile, we have won two strong positions to the northward of Passchendaele, enabling us to obtain complete scope for observation purposes.

The accountant of a firm at 30, Chung San Street West reports that a partner of the firm has absconded, taking with him \$1,163, collected from various shops which owed the firm money.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Affiliated Hospitals acknowledges with thanks the following donations to the funds of the hospitals: Rice Guild, \$100; Pupils Belliosis Girls' School, \$10; Cheng Rai Shing, \$20.

The master of a salt junk, No. T3473H, lying off Mongkok, has reported to the Police that on Tuesday evening, while he was returning to the junk, two men assaulted him and robbed him of a box containing \$18.60 and the licence for the junk.

Owing to a typographical error it was stated in the article on "The Concession to the Services," which appeared in yesterday's issue, that the Services had seen their pay diminish by "nearly 80 per cent." It should have read "nearly 50 per cent."

A Congregation of the University of Hongkong will be held in the Great Hall on Wednesday, January 9th, 1918, at 5.30 p.m., at which the Chancellor of the University, H.E. the Governor of the Colony, will confer Degrees. Admission will be by invitation.

A fire occurred at the U Tack Ching Godown, 49, Praya, Kennedy Road, used by a Chinese firm in Bonham Strand West. The outbreak was caused by some bags of bones becoming ignited from a lamp used by the coolies, who got the fire under before the arrival of the Brigade.

We are informed by Mr. C. F. Lee that the birth notice which appeared in yesterday's issue of this paper, though purporting to be sent and signed by him, is a malicious fabrication by some unscrupulous person, against whom, if his or her identity can be established, legal proceedings will be instituted.

As a result of the Jumble Sale, held under the auspices of Union Church Working Party, on the 21st ult., a draft for \$25 has been sent to the National Orphan Homes of Scotland, Bridge of Weir. The Committee wish to thank all those who helped by sending clothing for the sale. Every article was sold.

A small fire occurred on Tuesday on the ground-floor of 49, Connaught Road West. It was extinguished by the time the Fire Brigade arrived on the scene.

Mr. M. A. Murray, the Hon. Treasurer of St. Andrew's Fair, acknowledges the receipt of \$32.20, being the amount collected by "Billie," the Regimental goat of the Royal Engineers, on account of "Heather Day." The silver cup presented by Mr. Nicol, of Taikoo, for the best group on the tube range target at the Fair was won by Mr. W. J. Eldridge, of Taikoo Dockyard, with a 3/4 inch group.

SIR DOUGLAS HAIG'S THANKS TO ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY OF HONGKONG.

The following message has been received in reply to a telegram sent to Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig from the St. Andrew's Society of Hongkong:—

"Anton, St. Andrew's Society, Hongkong.

"Your kind wire has given pleasure to all ranks of the British Armies and, on their behalf and on my own, please convey to our brother Scots in Hongkong our hearty thanks for their very welcome congratulations and our appreciation for what they are doing on behalf of Scottish Hospitals for wounded of all nationalities.

"DOUGLAS HAIG."

CORRESPONDENCE. THE CONCESSION TO THE SERVICES.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS."]

Sir.—It is certain that all Service men in the China Command are grateful for the part that the Press has played in the struggle for an equitable "Service Dollar." It seems desirable, then, to correct an error into which you have fallen in this morning's editorial. You write: "The full concession will be enjoyed by all ranks up to a major of Infantry." That this is not so, because all allowances have to be brought in, will be seen from the following particulars of the position of an Infantry Lieutenant:—

The daily allowances, which are temporarily specially high, are, in the case of a Lieutenant:—Lodging (quarters not being provided) \$2, fuel and light 25 cents, servant 60 cents, rations 32 cents, colonial allowance 90 cents, chair 60 cents, making a total of \$4.93 per diem, or \$1,792.85 per annum of 365 days. Should any of these allowances be taken in kind, as when quarters are provided, nevertheless the amount indicated above is to be brought into the following calculation:—

The total allowances of \$1,792.85 are to be converted into sterling at 2/- and the amount, \$1,792.85, to be added to the day which, at 8/6 per diem, is \$155.25, giving a total of \$2331.82, which, it is seen, is well over the \$200 limit for the maximum concession. Of this, then, the officer is paid \$225, plus \$15.14, at 2/- and 27s, plus \$15.14, at an averaged current rate. Taking this month's rate, 2/10, he would draw per annum, ignoring income-tax, \$3,042.05, which gives \$258.42 for the month of 31 days.

It may be noted that the effective rate of exchange in this example works out at about 2/4. The Hongkong Civil Service effective rate for the same averaged current rate would be about 1/11, giving, if applied to the above example, \$133.64 for pay, or with allowances \$283.67 for the month, so that, although the lieutenant is \$16.37 better off this month than he would have been but for the recent War Office concession, he is \$25.15 worse off than he would be had that concession placed his pay on all fours with that of Civil Servants.

Further comment appears supererogatory.

I enclose my card and am, sir, Faithfully yours,

"HALF MEASURES."

Hongkong Club, 5th December, 1917.

NORTH BORNEO AND THE ALIENATION OF LAND TO ALIENS.

At the meeting of the Committee of the North Borneo Chamber of Commerce, recently the Secretary read the reply from the Government to the letter of the Chamber to the effect that no large areas had been, or would be, sold to aliens without reference to the Court of Directors, who were fully cognisant of the decision of the Government of the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States in this connection, as also of the sentiments of the public as expressed in Council by the Hon. Mr. W. G. Darby.

CHINESE TELEGRAMS.

[BY COURTESY OF THE "CHUNG KONG SAN PO."]

FOUR CONDITIONS.

PEKING, December 5th.

The Tientsin meeting has formulated four conditions in opposition to those laid down at the Wuchow meeting, viz., (1) the southern army to be withdrawn from Changsha; (2) the Southern Tschun to be appointed by the Government; (3) the dismissal of the extraordinary Parliament; and (4) the cancellation of the Military Government. If the conditions are not accepted Tso Kun and Chang Kwai-tse will lead an army to Aochu.

The President and Wang Shi-chien have ordered the Northern army to withdraw from Aochu.

The President has sent Luk Kien-chang to Nanking. (Tang Chi-peng has wired to Wang Shi-chien that he will withdraw to Chao An).

[THROUGH REUTERS' AGENCY.] MINISTERIAL RESIGNATION.

PEKING, December 4th.

The resignations of the Acting Premier, Wang Tai-sieh, Ministers of the Interior, Justice, Finance, Education, and Agriculture have been accepted.

Wang Shin-chen, at present Chief of the General Staff, has been appointed Acting-Premier.

CANTON NEWS.

[BY COURTESY OF THE "CHUNG KONG SAN PO."]

CANTON, December 5th.

CONTEMPLATED ASSASSINATION.

We are informed that a man was caught in the Civil Governor's yamen, yesterday, who admitted that he had been sent by a certain person to assassinate the Governor. He said that he gained entrance to the yamen by disguising himself as Li Fook-lam's (Defence Commissioner) servant and following Li into the yamen when Li went to visit the Governor yesterday. The man has been sent to the police Department for further enquiries to be made.

MEETING IN DUTCH BOLL.

A secret meeting was held in the Dutch Bolly yesterday. Among those present were Admiral Ching Pikkwang, Dr. Wa Ting-fang, Tong Shui-yi and many others.

SOLDIERS FOR CANTON.

Two thousand soldiers arrived at Canton yesterday. They are said to be the Governor, Li Yew-hon's soldiers, who were sent from Shui Hing to protect the city.

SWATOW AFFAIRS.

A message from Swatow states that the leaders in Swatow have been requested by the gentry and merchants to make peace with the Canton authorities. The leaders agreed, and proposed to dismiss the Defence Commissioner, Mok King-yu. We learn that representatives have been sent secretly to Canton to open peace negotiations.

The Intelligence Bureau of Canton announces that Mr. Tong Shao-yi, ex-Premier of China, arrived at Canton on December 3rd. He and Dr. Wu Ting-fang, who reached Canton on November 30th, hope to labour together to bring peace to China.

SANDAKAN AND THE "COURT CARDS."

The following letter of thanks was addressed by Mr. J. N. Wardrop to Mr. Edgar Warwick of "The Court Cards" at Hongkong:—

"DEAR SIR,—I wish to express to you the deep gratitude I feel, as Honorary Secretary of the British North Borneo War Relief Fund, for the Entertainment you gave in aid of our Fund whilst passing through this port bound for China. Not only did the people of Sandakan enjoy a musical treat such as they have never had in this country before, but the War Relief Fund benefited to the extent of over thirty pounds.

All here hope the "Court Cards" remembrance of Sandakan may be but a title of the happy memories they left behind here, and perhaps it may interest you to know that we think a better name for your talented Company would be the "Trump Cards," as you certainly were to us.

THE WAR.

THE GREAT WESTERN STRUGGLE.

WAVES OF GERMANS THROWN BACK.

BRITISH CONQUER GERMAN EAST AFRICA.

ENEMY'S LAST COLONY SECURED.

RUSSIAN PEACE MEASURES

"THE LAST OBSTACLE" REMOVED.

Bracco-Belgian Front.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

BRITISH FRONT.

ENEMY CONCENTRATIONS BROKEN UP.

LONDON, December 4th.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—Our artillery broke up concentrations east of Gouzaucourt and in the neighbourhood of Moeuvres before the attack could develop.

The enemy's artillery is active in the neighbourhood of La Vacquerie.

There is considerable hostile artillery firing north of Armentieres, south-east of Ypres and in the Paschendale sector.

EARLIER CABLES.

ENEMY'S OFFENSIVE SCHEME.

LONDON, December 4th.

Reuter's Correspondent at Headquarters states:—Captured German objective maps show the scheme of their offensive was most ambitious. For example, certain troops had set them as their first day's objective a line which would have carried their left flank two miles, to where our front line rested prior drive of November 19th. These same troops' actual gain is very slight. So far as definite news is available we are still standing firm at Lavacquerie, which may be described as the centre of the German attack, and the enemy nowhere made progress.

GRAPHIC ACCOUNT OF ENEMY ATTACK.

LONDON, December 4th.

Reuter's Correspondent at the British Headquarters, telegraphing to-day, says:—The result of yesterday's great German effort at Lavacquerie has been left to him, and our line has been slightly bent back on a mile front. West and south-west of Masmieres we have withdrawn slightly, while it is understood that our line at Marcoing now does not include the whole of the copse of that name. This is practically the sum total of the German recovery of territory effected at a truly appalling price. His effort was admittedly undertaken to recover the lost fifteen miles of the Hindenburg Line and to free Cambrai from the present threat. The situation at Bourlon Wood, which dominates Cambrai, is unchanged.

The Germans made prodigious preparations for yesterday's efforts, bringing many train-loads of troops from the Eastern Front. The weather throughout was perfect, enabling our gunners and riflemen to make the best possible marksmanship. It may be computed that no fewer than twelve Divisions were thrown into the attack, coming on in endless waves across the rolling country. Our advantageously-posted field batteries caught the Germans at short ranges with devastating effects. Yet at one time sheer weight of numbers carried them through our line south of Marcoing. A splendidly spirited counter-attack sent them reeling back.

Again and again we either beat back the Germans after awaiting the clash in our own lines, or advanced to meet them in a hand-to-hand conflict. Our airmen did their work magnificently. They spotted a large concentration of German guns and directly contributed to the destruction of many of them.

Whether the Germans will renew their most colossal and costly attempt remains to be seen. Personally I do not believe the rumour that they have massed cavalry ready to break through. We still retain high country north of Lavacquerie, which considerably minimises any tactical advantage of the German re-occupation of the ruins and village. Very methodical activity prevails at the rear of our battle-front, where the exceptional dryness of the roads is facilitating transport and other operations. I think it can be safely said that we are quite ready to deal with any further projects the enemy has in mind.

GERMANS REPORT VIOLENT FIGHTING.

LONDON, December 4th.

A German wireless official message states:—We threw back the English in many waves north of Gheluvelt.

There was violent fighting between Marcoing and the Peronne-Cambrai road, where we captured a section of trenches.

We stormed Lavacquerie and repulsed counter-attacks, taking five hundred prisoners.

ENEMY ARTILLERY ACTIVE.

LONDON, December 4th.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports that enemy artillery was active at night in the neighbourhood of Bourlon and Moeuvres.

There was no further infantry action.

AVIATION.

LONDON, December 4th.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—Our low-fliers on Sunday bombed and machine-gunned villages occupied by the German reserves northward of Bourlon, also the enemy's active batteries on the Ypres battle-front.

One enemy machine was brought down. Five of our machines are missing.

ABSENCE OF CASUALTY LISTS.

LONDON, December 4th.

In the House of Commons, Mr. MacPherson stated that Germany has prohibited the export of official casualty lists. Hence the totals could no longer be published.

FRENCH FRONT.

ENEMY DRIVEN BACK.

PARIS, December 4th.

A communiqué states:—There was great artillery activity in the sector north of Chemin-des-Dames, and intermittent artillery actions on the right of the Meuse.

The enemy, after a violent bombardment in the Woevre region, attacked our positions north of Flirey.

Our fire drove him back, inflicting heavy losses.

MUTUAL ARTILLERY FIRING.

PARIS, December 4th.

A communiqué states:—There is great mutual artillery firing in Champagne, especially in the regions of Tabora and Maisons-de-Champagne.

Italian Front.

EARLIER CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

ITALIAN FRONT.

ITALIANS REPEL ATTACKS.

LONDON, December 4th.

An Italian official message states:—We repulsed attacks south of Daone Valley in the Giudicarie region. Enemy artillery is active between Monte Sinigaglia and Castel Gomberto. We carried out a powerful concentration of fire on enemy masses in Gallio Wood and north of Mount Tondarcar.

Africa.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

GERMAN EAST AFRICA CONQUERED.

WAR CABINET'S CONGRATULATIONS.

The War Cabinet has sent a message to the Commander-in-Chief of the East African Forces, congratulating him on the successes, and adding, "The determination and endurance of the troops in overcoming the resistance of a determined enemy and the difficulties of a tropical and roadless country have been beyond praise."

EARLIER CABLES.

THE REWARD OF TWO MONTHS' OPERATIONS.

NANDA, December 4th.

We have concluded two months of the most severe and most successful fighting in East Africa. The whole of what may be called the south-east quadrant of the country, of a size of 300 by 500 miles, has been cleared of the enemy. During October and November, we accounted for 68 whites and 269 Askaris killed, excluding the bodies which the enemy carried off. There were 1,343 whites and 3,975 Askaris taken prisoner. The Askaris do not include porters or armed levies. We captured 54 machine-guns, two 4-inch guns, nine field-guns and one Howitzer.

BLACKS SURRENDER.

NANDA, December 4th.

Three thousand five hundred blacks belonging to Tafel's force have now surrendered.

There are no German military or civil authorities now north of the Rovuma River. Our occupation is complete, and political officers are being appointed to all districts.

Our patrols penetrated considerably south of the Rovuma River.

COUNTRY CLEARED OF ENEMY.

LONDON, December 4th.

An East African official message states:—General Van De Venster on the 1st instant reported that reconnaissance definitely show that German East Africa has been completely cleared of the enemy.

Thus the whole of the last of the German overseas possessions has passed into our hands and those of the Belgians.

A small German remnant has taken refuge in Portuguese territory and measures are being taken to deal with them.

The captures during November were 1,115 Germans and 3,382 native fighters.

We have captured, or the enemy has destroyed, six guns, 73 machine-guns and several thousand rifles.

GERMANY'S COLONIAL EMPIRE DISAPPEARS.

LATE.

General Van De Venster's report of the expulsion of General von Lettow's force is hailed as marking the disappearance of Germany's Colonial Empire.

The conquest is tributed as a great Imperial achievement by two Boer Generals and British, Indian and South African troops. The German treatment of the natives is recalled, and it is urged that the Teuton must never be allowed to rule Africa again.

The Near East.

EARLIER CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

THE PALESTINE CAMPAIGN. TURKISH GARRISON CAPTURED.

LONDON, December 4th.

A Palestine official message states:—The situation generally is unchanged. East County troops raided and captured the whole garrison of a Turkish post south of Naharaja.

Our aeroplanes successfully bombed Turkish communications in the vicinity of Tulkeram.

FEARED LOSS OF SACRED RELICS.

LONDON, December 4th.

Reuter's Special Correspondent with the Palestine Field Force, telegraphing on November 29th, says:—There seems to be good ground to believe that the Turks have removed the archives and many civilians from Jerusalem, and it is feared that they have not respected the churches, which were the repositories of

sacred relics and inestimable treasures, accumulating through many centuries. It is rumoured that some of these places have been mined.

The Turks are concentrated at Birch and Elgid, the latter being where Joshua camped the sun to stand still. They are preparing for a determined stand, realising that Jerusalem will be lost if they give way.

THE POSITION NEAR ADEN.

LONDON, December 4th.

In the House of Lords, Lord Curzon stated that we were holding an area of about eleven miles from Aden. As far as was known, the Turks in the vicinity had no direct communication with Turkey, and had not received supplies or reinforcements.

General.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

AMERICA AND THE WAR. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS TO CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, December 4th.

Addressing Congress, President Wilson said he would ask congress to consider again, and with very grave scrutiny, the war objectives and the measures by which they meant to attain them. The purpose of discussion there was action, which must move straight towards definite ends. They would not slacken and not suffer themselves to be diverted from the object of winning the war, but it was worth while asking and answering the question: "When would they consider the war won?" As a nation they were united in spirit and intention, and he paid little heed to those who told him otherwise. After severely trouncing the anti-war sections and the pacifists, the President proceeded to state the reasons for which the war was waging, and the part the United States meant to play in the settlement of its searching issues.

EARLIER CABLES.

WEEKLY WAR REVIEW.

WASHINGTON, December 4th.

Mr. Baker, Secretary for War, in his Weekly War Review, says that the outstanding feature is the ever-increasing mobility of action of the forces engaged.

The enemy is apparently seeking a decision realising that he cannot endure much longer the strain of trench warfare imposed by the Allies in the west. This explains the attempt to crush Italy, where five weeks of desperate fighting has brought them no nearer the real objective. The Italians, now backed by the Allies, are able to check the Austro-German invasion.

The enemy is constantly detaching large contingents from the East Front, although the season is not propitious for big military enterprises, yet, owing to the imperative necessity of the continuance of this mobility, further enemy offensives are anticipated, but the Allies will give the enemy no respite, and any German offensive will be promptly met by a counter-stroke of great severity.

Referring to Cambrai, Mr. Baker says the British now have the situation well in hand.

SHIPPING PROGRAMME.

WASHINGTON, December 4th.

The Shipping Board recommends that Congress should have a more complete control in the regulation of merchant shipping, especially with a view to preventing extortionate ocean freights, and asks for additional legislation to cover the transfer of American vessels to a foreign registry.

The Shipping Board had under contract on October 30th the construction of 1,151 vessels, and was negotiating contracts for 199 additional ships, with a total tonnage of 7,358,000.

AMERICA AND GERMANY'S ALLIES.

Mr. Lodge Ranking, Republican member of the Foreign Relations Committee, in the Senate, urged the declaration of war against Germany's allies.

THE TEA MARKET.

LONDON, December 4th.

Indian Ceylon tea, amounting to 3,894,000 lbs. were offering at the sale, this week, being equivalent to eight days' supply for civilians.

RUSSIAN AFFAIRS.

GENERAL STAFF SURRENDERS.

PETROGRAD, December 4th.

The Maximalist News Agency states that a telegram from General Krylenko from Vitabek announces that the General Staff has surrendered to the Maximalists.

GENERAL KORNILOFF ESCAPES.

PETROGRAD, December 4th.

General Krylenko's Adjutant has telegraphed that General Krylenko arrived at Vitabek with detachments of the Petrograd Garrison. Cossacks are gathering on their flanks and rear.

Reading between the lines of the despatch, a collision is momentarily possible. According to other sources, the first small clash has already occurred, with some casualties.

It is circumstantially reported that General Korniloff escaped on the 2nd inst.

RUSSIAN PEACE DELEGATES.

LONDON, December 4th.

The *Daily Chronicle* representative at Petrograd states that peace delegates to the Germans number four. They are accompanied by two Colonels who do not sympathise with the idea of an isolated peace, but are going to protect the military interests of the Russian and Allied Fronts during the negotiations.

M. Trotzky informed the American Attaché that every stage of the negotiations would be published and discussed.

ADVICE TO UKRAINIANS.

LONDON, December 4th.

The Soviet Ukrainian War Secretary has ordered the Ukrainian troops not to support the Bolshevik peace manoeuvres, as they are involving a risk of a breach on the Russian front and the invasion of Ukraine.

MANIFESTO TO GERMAN SOLDIERS.

LONDON, December 4th.

The *Daily News* Correspondent at Petrograd states that the People's Commission has issued a manifesto to German soldiers which will be thrown broadcast to the German and Austrian armies by aeroplanes.

DUKHONIN KILLED.

LONDON, December 4th.

A Russian wireless official message states:—General Krylenko, in a Proclamation states the head of the Revolutionary troops to-day surrendered the Headquarters without fighting, thus removing the last obstacle to peace. He strongly condemns the act of lynch law practised upon General Dukhonin and adds that popular hatred surpassed all the limits of reason. Despite all efforts to save General Dukhonin he was thrown out of a railway train at Mohilef station and killed. It was General Korniloff's fight on the preceding day which caused this excess.

General Krylenko urged his comrades to be worthy of their secured freedom and not to stain the people's authority. Revolutionary people are fearful in a struggle but must be soft after victory. The struggle for peace receives new strength by the fall of the Headquarters.

General Krylenko, in the name of the Revolution, calls for unity and discipline.

PEACE DELEGATES CONFER.

LONDON, December 4th.

A Russian wireless official telegram from M. Skliansky, the President of the Congress of the Fifth Army, states that a peace delegation from the Council of the People's Commissaries, at the invitation of the Congress, arrived at Dvinsk on Sunday, and the speeches of the delegates provoked rounds of applause.

The Congress solemnly promised to destroy all the waifs' nests of the counter-revolution which are obstacles to peace, particularly the nest of General Dukhonin, M. Goltz, M. Aykshentief and other traitors to the Revolution sitting at Mohilef. The delegates then departed, the German delegates receiving them in the evening in a neutral zone.

There was a demonstration at Dvinsk, when banners were displayed inscribed "Long Live the Council of the People's Commissaries!" "Control Production!" "Abolish Secrecy!" and "In the Trenches Spirits are High!"

THE BRITISH MAN-POWER QUESTION.

COMBING OUT MINERS.

LONDON, December 4th.

It is announced that the combing out of all men who have entered the collieries since the start of war has begun.

MAN-POWER TO BE OVERHAULED.

The *Times* understands that a Government Committee with executive power will be established to overhaul the use made of man-power by the different Departments.

BRITISH OUTMANNED?

LONDON, December 4th.

The newspapers point out that the strength of the German attack at Cambrai suggests that Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig was out-manned, and that this raises once more the question of man-power.

GERMAN BOY SPIES.

LONDON, December 4th.

Two German "Citizen Boy Scouts" landed at Belfast from Ardrossan carrying a portmanteau. They were shadowed and the portmanteau was found to contain sufficient explosives to blow up a street.

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS AND THE FRANCHISE.

LONDON, December 4th.

In the House of Commons, during a discussion on the Electoral Reform Bill, Sir George Cave intimated that the Government proposed to limit the disfranchisement of conscientious objectors to the period of the war and seven years thereafter. Objectors rendering valuable war services would be exempted from this disqualification.

THE CANADIAN VICTORY LOAN.

TORONTO, December 4th.

The Victory Loan totals over £80,000,000 by half a million subscribers.

NEW YORK DRY DOCK FIRE.

NEW YORK, December 4th.

Four large buildings of the Morse Dry-Dock Company have been destroyed by fire.

The loss is estimated at \$1,000,000. There was a considerable amount of valuable machinery destroyed.

THE LATE GENERAL MAUDE MEMORIAL SERVICE IN ST. PAUL'S.

LONDON, December 4th.

A memorial service to the late General Maude was held in St. Paul's at noon.

There was a distinguished congregation, including Sir William Robertson, who represented His Majesty the King; Lord Islington and Mr. Walter Long, who represented the Indian Office and Colonial Office respectively; the Duke of Connaught, Mr. Lloyd George, Lord Derby, General Smuts, Army Councillors, and members of Parliament.

The Lord Mayor and Sheriffs of London attended in State.

A VICTIM TO CHOLERA.

LONDON, December 4th.

In the House of Commons, Mr. MacPherson said he regretted that it was confirmed that General Maude died of cholera. He was glad to say that cases of cholera in Mesopotamia were few.

THE INTER-ALLIED CON- FERENCE.

PARIS, December 4th.

The Inter-Allied Conference has closed. Colonel House said that there had been co-ordination and unity of purpose, promising great results in the future. He was profoundly convinced that we would thereby reach our goal.

He paid a tribute to the great deeds of France, saying that America felt honoured to fight on the side of such a gallant comrade.

M. Clemenceau said that it was no longer a question of great and little nations. All peoples were fighting for the same ideal of justice and liberty, and they would succeed in attaining their ideal by dint of their sacrifices, which would soon be magnificently recompensed.

HAPPY RESULTS OF CONFERENCE.

PARIS, December 4th.

M. Pichon, Minister of Foreign Affairs, has announced that the Allied Conference has given happy results, practically assuring unity of action, economic, financial and military. The needs of the Allies regarding finance, munitions, transport and supplies had been carefully studied and decisions would guarantee them every satisfaction. The creation of a Supreme Inter-Allied Naval Committee had been decided upon, while unity of military action had been certainly reached by the Allied General Staff, which was working according to programme. Diplomatically also, complete agreement was reached on all matters necessary to ensure victory.

ADMISSIONS BY VON TIRPITZ.

LONDON, December 4th.

The *Hamburger Nachrichten* contains a full report of the speech of Admiral von Tirpitz at Essen, in the course of which he said:—"Not only has England taken our Colonies and Mesopotamia, but everywhere she has anchored deeper and firmer the bases of her maritime and colonial supremacy. Further, she has to-day abolished German competition from all parts of the earth and tarnished and trodden down German prestige and honour by an unprecedented system of calumny and lies. In the whole trans-Atlantic world we are considered conquered and done for."

So far as is known von Tirpitz has never made such admissions in public.

NATIONALISATION OF MEDICAL PROFESSION.

LONDON, December 4th.

The *Daily Express* states Dr. Addison has accepted the post of Minister of Public Health.

The journal hopes that a Bill will be passed before Christmas establishing a new Ministry which aims at nationalisation of the medical profession, involving free medical attendance for all, without the element of charity.

OFFICIAL DENIAL.

LATE.

It is officially denied that Dr. Addison has been appointed Minister of Public Health, but it is admitted that he is assisting to establish a Health Ministry.

THE SILVER MARKET.

LONDON, December 4th.

The silver market is quiet.

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FOR NILA..... "YUENSANG"..... Friday, 7th Dec., 5 P.M.
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FOR NGHAI..... "WONGANG"..... Tuesday, 11th Dec., 11 A.M.
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Three sailings per month from Hongkong to Calcutta calling at Singapore and Penang.
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These steamers have excellent passenger accommodation, are fitted with electric light and carry a fully qualified Surgeon.
This line is temporarily discontinued owing to the war. Particulars on application.
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Steamers on this line have a limited amount of passenger accommodation, and through tickets can be obtained for Northern and Yangtze Ports via Shanghai. Through Bills of Lading are issued to all Northern and Yangtze Ports.
WANLIA LINE—A weekly service is maintained with Manila by vessels with good passenger accommodation, sailings from both ports every Saturday.
HAIPHONG LINE—Sailings approximately weekly for passengers and cargo, calling at Haiphong when hindrance occurs.
SOERBO LINE—One sailing per month between Hongkong and Sandakan by steamer having up-to-date accommodation for passengers.
Cargo taken on through Bills of Lading for Kuala, Jesselton, Labuan, Tawau and Lahad Dato.
FENTON LINE—A regular service is run from March to October between Hongkong and Tianjin, calling at Weihaiwei and Chiaoow.
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AEROPLANING AT THE FRONT

CARPENTIER ON THE "EX-HILARATING SPORT"

One of the most intimate descriptions that has yet been given of aeroplaning on the front is given in the correspondence of Georges Carpentier, the French pugilist. Says Carpentier:

I used to think that the fight of my life would be in the ring for the world's heavy-weight championship. Now I know that it will be in the air with a German aviator—for my life and for his. The closest call during my two years and more as a military aviator occurred during the period when I was doing patrol duty and observation work over Alsace.

"I was up in my Maurice Farman when I saw, several thousand metres above me, an aviator. I started climbing, and succeeded in getting up to its level before the pilot got busy."

"His machine had speed, mine had weight. Weight may count in the ring, but in the air it is decidedly a disadvantage. Like a big, lumbering whale, I steered my Farman to corner him. Like a nimble light-weight he darted away from me."

"I closed in on him, and he was not there. My right hit nothing but air; he had side-stepped me."

"Then I began dodging, using my hands, my feet, my head, in working controls, wrapping planes, in an attempt to bring my machine-gun to bear on him and to keep out of the range of his. The German's speed told."

"Never in the ring had I twisted, ducked, and side-stepped as I did in trying to escape the bullets his machine-gun spit forth at me incessantly."

"His swift machine enabled him to empty over a hundred rounds at me. My Farman was hit twice. Fortunately for me these two bullets did nothing but cause the machine to shiver and rock for an instant."

"During this fight, although it had not been at close quarters, I was fast to face with death. But I did not realize this until afterward. In an air battle you have no time nor thought for anything except to outguess your opponent; to out-maneuvre him."

"Even with no enemy in sight, a flyer has to have everything under control. He never knows what is going to happen. For instance, I was flying along in the Voges one day, about a mile up, when my engine, which had been going beautifully, came to a sudden stop. There was no such thing as getting out and inspecting the motor, as the automobilist does. The loss of a few seconds meant an airplane smashing to the ground and burial for one more military aviator."

"The instant the motor stopped I started gliding. It seemed to take ages getting down that mile to the good solid comfort of earth. But it was a little too solid for the spot on which I had to land was rough and I came to the ground with a bang. My head was gashed and my right foot badly sprained."

"Despite the dangers of military aviation, you can hunt along the entire western front, from the English Channel to Switzerland, and not succeed in finding an aviator who is willing to give up flying."

"He finds it the most exhilarating sport he has ever engaged in, and each aviator knows that he is an eye whose sight means life for his fellows and death of the enemy."

THE BALLAD OF ARMY PAY

In general, if you want a man to do a dangerous job:

Say, swim the Channel, climb St. Paul's, or break into and rob

The Bank of England, why, you find his wages must be higher.

Then if you merely wanted him to light the kitchen fire,

But in the British Army, it's just the other way.

And the maximum of danger means the minimum of pay.

You put some men aside a trench, and call them infantry,

And make them face ten kinds of hell, and face it cheerfully;

And live in holes like rats, with other rats, and lice, and toads,

And in their leisure time, assist the R.E.'s with their loads.

Then, when they've done it all, you give 'em each a bob a day!

For the maximum of danger means the minimum of pay.

We won't run down the A.S.C., nor yet the R.T.O.'s;

They ration and direct us on the way we've got to do.

They're very useful people, and it's pretty plain to see.

We couldn't do without 'em, nor yet the A.P.C.

But comparing risks and wages—I think they all will say

That the maximum of danger means the minimum of pay.

There are men who make munitions—and seventy bob a week;

They never see a lousy trench nor bear a big shell shriek;

And others sing about the war at high-class music-halls

Getting heaps and heaps of money and ancores from the stalls.

They "keep the home fires burning" and bright by night and day,

While the maximum of danger means the minimum of pay.

I wonder if it's harder to make big shells at a bench

Than to face the screaming beggars when they're crumping up a trench;

I wonder if it's harder to sing in mellow tones

Of danger, than to face it—say, in a wood like Trone's;

Is discipline skilled labour, or something children play?

Should the maximum of danger mean the minimum of pay?—E.

A WORD TO LLOYD GEORGE.

LETTING FRANCE AND AMERICA SPEAK THE TRUTH.

(By ROBERT BLATCHFORD.)

May I be allowed to preface this article with a solemn affirmation that I am not a prophet? Thank you. One of my commentators (Shakespeare ever had) has just suggested that I am not a successful prophet, for he reminds me, in 1914, I said, "The Germans are beaten, and they know it."

I did say that, and I claim that it was true, and I think that most of the leading military authorities of France and Britain and America are of the same opinion; that is to say, the German plan of European domination was frustrated, and the German invasion defeated at the battle of the Marne.

But my statement of that fact was in no sense a prophecy; it was simply an inference drawn from accomplished facts.

VICTORY NEVER IN DOUBT.

I have no doubt, and have never had any doubt of the ultimate military defeat of the Central Powers.

I have no doubt, and have never had any doubt, of the ability of the Allies to enforce upon Germany a peace that should be permanent.

But I have doubts, and I have had doubts all through the war, of the will of the power, but the will of our own people and our own Government to adopt such measures as would prevent Germany from repeating her attempt within a measurable distance of time.

If any reader regards me as a fanatical anti-German, prophesying alone in the wilderness, he will make a very serious mistake. The dangers to which I have so repeatedly called attention are much better understood and more fully appreciated in the Allied countries than in this. I have no doubt that there are very many British citizens who take the German peace menace as seriously and speak of it as anxiously as I.

M. Painleve, in his address to the French Chamber, spoke with admirable firmness and lucidity. He said: "France fights not for conquest of vengeance, but to defend her liberty and that of the world," demanding "a peace not founded on violence, but guaranteeing the rights of all peoples, great or small, and effectively protecting the society of nations against any aggression."

A WORD OF WARNING.

That is the vital point of a substantial peace—effective protection of the society of nations against any aggression—commercial, diplomatic, or military.

We are to guard ourselves after peace against any aggression; against spies, intriguers, dumpers, bagmen, and other advance agents of the German war machine. Failing such precaution, though we may win the war, we shall lose the object for which we fought.

Mr. Lane, the Secretary of the Interior, and one of the ablest members of the American Government, has put the case as plainly and as strongly. He said: "It is now nineteen hundred years since Caesar defeated the Germans in France. When they came asking terms, he said: 'Go back whence you came, repair the damage you have done, and give hostages to keep the peace for the future.'"

It is the problem of the world to discover what kind of hostages Germany can give when she has been convinced that her hope of world mastery cannot come true.

HOSTAGE WE MUST DEMAND.

There are gratifying signs that in America and in France the true nature and scope of the German menace are understood. If one could discern any such signs in the public utterances of our own statesmen one need not any longer view the public ear with cries of danger.

But no such signs are visible. Nor can one feel confident that the British people have a clear conception of the task before them—the task of exacting from the German nation the kind of hostages which will make a permanent peace possible and dispel the German menace finally from the face of Europe.

Mr. Gerard, late United States Ambassador in Berlin, speaks of the ten millions killed in this war, and says: "It is because in the dark, cold northern forests of Germany there exists an autocracy, deceiving a great people, poisoning their minds from one generation to another, and preaching the virtue and necessity of war. And until that autocracy is either wiped out or made powerless there can be no peace on earth."

How is the Prussian autocracy to be wiped out or made powerless? Not by fine speeches about never sheathing the sword; not by passing resolutions in favour of Free Trade; not even by defeating the armed forces of Germany. To render the Prussian autocracy powerless it will be necessary to destroy the commercial and diplomatic machinery upon which that power depends.

AWAY WITH SHIBBOLETHS!

The fruits of victory in the field, won at the cost of such terrible sacrifices, must not be thrown back to the enemy for the sake of any shibboleth, fiscal or ethical. If we are to prevent Germany from making war we must prevent her from preparing for war. This brings me naturally to the statement made to a representative of the *Daily Sketch* by Mr. Havelock Wilson, of the Seamen's and Firemen's Union.

"The seamen have decided," said Mr. Wilson, "that they will not handle German goods, sail in a ship which has a German as member of the crew, or enter a German port for twelve months after peace has been declared. And for every big crime committed by the Hun we shall extend the boycott for another year."

That is very much better than passing resolutions in favour of free trade. But it is not enough.

It is not enough that the seamen should boycott German trade and Germany. The restrictions placed upon the German diplomatic and commercial branches of the German war machine should be official and national, and the men most entitled to decide upon the kind of hostages to be exacted from Germany are not the trade unionists who have remained to work at home in Germany, and its safety, but the sailors and the soldiers who have faced the perils and the hardships of the war,

LOOTERS AND MURDERERS.

If we allow these Germans to come here again spying, intriguing, and making money we shall be arming them again for invasion and robbery, for incendiarism, outrage, and massacre. If we trust these unscrupulous scoundrels after the war we shall be false to the men who have died to save us from the menace of their treachery and frightfulness. The French realise this; the Americans realise it; Mr. Havelock Wilson and the sailors and firemen realise it.

What does the Prime Minister say about it? So far as I am aware, he says nothing; nothing at all. What has become of the resolutions passed at the Paris Conference? They have been hidden, like a shameful deed, behind a screen of official reticence.

This war is not a party war. It is not a British war. It is a world war. The peace and the liberties, the welfare and the security of all the Allies and neutral nations are at stake.

From Germany must be exacted such hostages as will deliver the world for ever from the terror of the "Blonde Beast." Apparently our Allies are awake to the danger, and agreed upon the remedy. But we hang back. Our Ministers are silent.

Now Germany unchained and unwatched is as dangerous and as hostile in peace as in war. What are we going to do about it? When is our timid, vacillating, indeterminate Government going to tell the country the truth and give us a lead?—*Illustrated Sunday Herald.*

AIRCRAFT IDEAS UNDERGO CHANGE.

HEAVIER MACHINES FAVOURED

The day of thrilling air duels between individual aviators seems to be passing (says a message from Washington). Both official and unofficial advices from Europe recently have shown the increasing use of heavier machines with greater armament. There are indications that amendment already has been necessary in the programme for creating the huge air-fleet provided for by Congress. While there will be no lack of small fighting planes, it is probable that stress is being laid now on the bombing craft and upon increasing the speed of the heavier machines and giving them adequate armament.

Already the engineers who designed the Liberty motor are at work on plans for even more powerful motors; it is understood that at the same time the Liberty motor is now produced at a rate that assures a sufficient supply when American flyers are assembled in force over the fighting lines.

There have been rumours of great German aircraft soon to make their appearance, and officials believe that the Germans are much impressed with the desirability of substituting heavier machines in which fighting power takes the place of high speed.

The production of training machines, it is understood, is the only element of the aircraft programme which is behind schedule, but new supply sources for the training machines are shortly to begin deliveries.

That will increase the output, and the first of the year probably will see the whole programme abreast or ahead of its schedule.

WEATHER REPORT.

December 6th, at 11.30.—No return from Japan and Indo-China. The 4-typhoon has weakened, and with few exceptions pressure has decreased slightly to moderate at all stations reporting.

Fresh monsoon will prevail along the China coast, and over the N. China Sea.

Hongkong rainfall for 24 hours ending at 10 a.m. to-day, 0.00 inch. Total since 1st a.m. 80.34 inches, against an average of 62.12 inches.

The forecast for the 24 hours ending at noon to-day is as follows:—

Direction. Forecast.

Hongkong to Gap Rock... (N.E. winds fresh, to moderate; fine.)

Formosa Channel... (North winds, strong.)

South Coast of China between... (The same as Hongkong and Formosa.)

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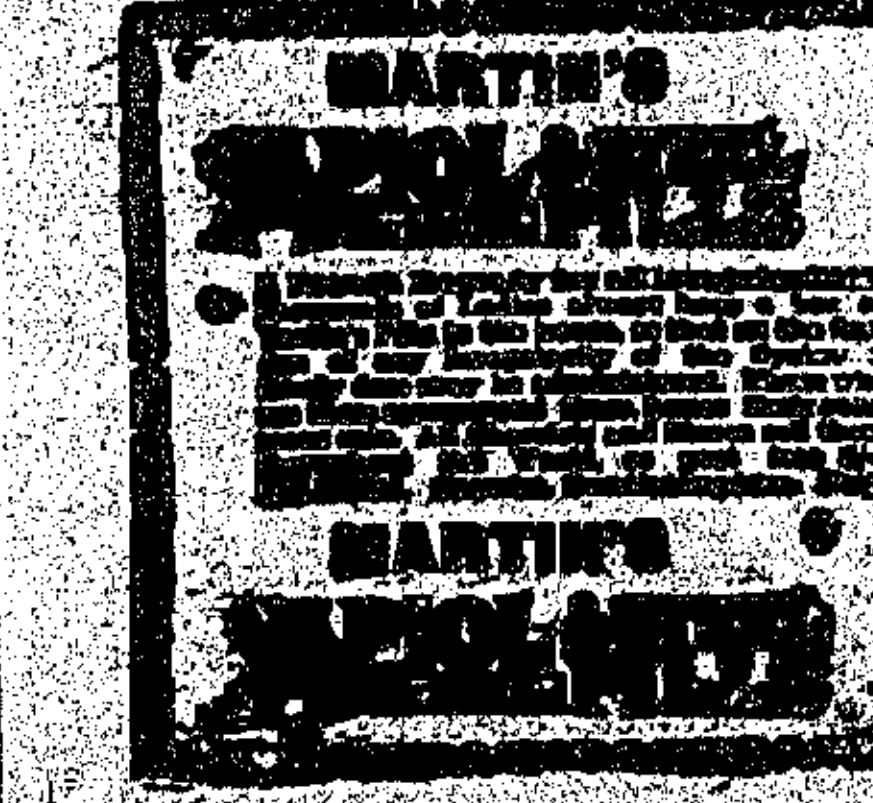
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